



December 7, 2010

To members of the River Terrace Elementary School community,

As we move forward together toward our goal of improving the education experience of every DCPS student, we have been carefully considering ways in which DCPS can better serve all students. River Terrace has had a small and declining enrollment for a number of years, and does not have a population large enough to sustain a full PS-5 program. Therefore, **DCPS proposes to close River Terrace Elementary at the end of this school year. River Terrace students would attend Thomas Elementary beginning in the fall of 2011.**

While school closures are always challenging, we must consider how to best allocate limited DCPS resources and ensure that all students have access to comprehensive academic and extracurricular programming. The goal of this proposal is to provide River Terrace students with a strong educational experience through attending a school with a larger enrollment and more programmatic offerings. By transitioning students to Thomas, we are confident we can enhance the academic, enrichment, and support services offered to all students. At the same time, we will work with the River Terrace community to preserve and build upon the best strengths of the existing school program.

We are confident that this proposal is in the best interest of students and would yield positive results. Before making a final decision on this proposal, however, DCPS needs to hear all of your comments, questions and concerns. We are all working together to improve our students' education; your input is very important to us. **Please share your perspectives at an open community meeting on January 13 at 6:00pm at River Terrace.** While there will be additional meetings for parents and staff within the next few weeks, this meeting is an opportunity for the River Terrace community to gather on this issue.

We know that you will have a significant number of questions about this proposal. We have included some initial questions and answers with this letter, but there are undoubtedly others. We will also continue to engage with the school community to identify additional questions and gather ideas and input to consider before a final decision is made.

We are committed to providing as much information as possible in a timely manner and maintaining ongoing communication throughout this process. If you have additional questions or concerns not addressed in this letter, you should feel free to contact Principal Shannon Foster. You are also welcome to contact Margie Yeager in the DCPS central office who will be engaging with the River Terrace school community. She can be reached at Margery.Yeager@dc.gov or 202-442-5612.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kaya Henderson", followed by a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Shannon Foster
Principal, River Terrace

Kaya Henderson
Interim Chancellor